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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 276

ARTCRAFT PRINTERS BOZEMAN, MONTANA

APRIL, 1967

Non-Farm Jobs At Record
Despite Weather Slowdown

Non-Farm Jobs Up 3,900 from Last March — Bad weather played the villain on the March employment scene in Montana. Employment dipped 100 from the February figure to a March total of 178,100. This contrasts with an employment gain of 1,600 between these two months in 1966 and indicates clearly the influence of weather conditions on the Montana economy. Employment trends in construction, oil fields, logging, agriculture, and other outdoor endeavors were held in suspense during periods of bad weather in March. Comparison with the March non-farm job total last year reveals an increase of 3,900 wage earners on March 1967 industrial payrolls. Non-farm employment for the first three months of this year has exceeded comparable months of all past years pointing to another record job year in Montana.

Over-the-Month Gains in Three Industries — Three of eight of the major industries posted employment gains from February to March this year. Payrolls of trade industry employers were 400 heavier during March with a gain of 500 in retail trade firms overshadowing a drop of 100 in wholesale outlets. Service industry employment was up 300 with the bulk of this gain in hotel and motel operations. An advance of 100 workers in railroad employment accounted for all of the increment in the transportation, utilities and communications group. In-

dustries showing fewer workers in March were led by manufacturing which slipped 600, a normal occurrence at this time of the year with the end of sugar beet refining activities in the state. All of the deficit in manufacturing was in food processing. Construction contractors listed 200 fewer workers on March payrolls than in February. Mining employment was down 100 with all of the loss in petroleum and natural gas production as bad weather held field work at a minimum. March payrolls of government agencies, at 49,400; and finance, insurance and real estate firms, at 7,200, did not change from the February totals.

Government and Manufacturing Head Changes from Last Year — With 1,900 more workers on federal government payrolls and 1,600 more at state and local units, government employment increased by 3,500 from March, 1966. The March 1967 total was 49,400 workers. Increased production activity at lumber mills, smelters, and fabricated metal, stone, and clay firms is evident in a manufacturing job total 1,600 higher this March than last. Lumber mill employment was up 500; smelting, up 600; and other manufacturing, up 400. Trade employment was 400 higher this March, with retail and wholesale units sharing equal gains. Lower employment levels this March from the same month a year ago are reflected in construction, down 1,000; mining, down

500; and transportation, communications and utilities, down 300. Employment in service industries, at 25,800, did not change from last March.

Job Placements Change from Year Ago Figures — Reflecting the adverse pressure of bad weather, especially in outdoor industries, industrial job placement figures, the cumulative total from the states 23 local employment offices, shows a 24 per cent drop from March 1966. A more moderate 5.7 per cent loss in farm job placement figures is reported from a year ago. Employers listed 2,489 industrial job openings this March compared with 2,968 a year ago. A total of 15,149 active jobseekers was registered for employment with local employment offices this March against the March 1966 figure of 16,489.

Youth Opportunity Campaign Underway — Thousands of high school and college youth will soon be out of school and anxious for summer employment. The Montana State Employment Service and its network of 23 local offices are co-operating with national efforts to find as many summer jobs and opportunities as possible for those young people who most need help. Employers are encouraged to list their summer job openings with these offices. Young workers desiring job placement assistance should contact the nearest state employment service office.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Feb. 1967	Jan. 1967	Feb. 1966	Feb. 1967	Jan. 1967	Feb. 1966	Feb. 1967	Jan. 1967	Feb. 1966	Feb. 1967	Jan. 1967	Feb. 1966	Feb. 1967	Jan. 1967	Feb. 1966
All Manufacturing	3.7	4.2	3.4	3.0	3.9	2.7	3.2	3.8	3.2	1.7	1.9	1.7	.7	.6	.6
Durable Goods	4.4	4.9	3.3	3.3	4.5	2.7	3.7	4.4	3.5	2.1	2.1	2.0	.6	.6	.4
Primary Metal	4.8	4.9	2.7	4.3	4.2	2.0	3.1	4.7	3.3	1.6	2.2	1.6	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	2.3	2.1	3.7	2.3	2.0	3.0	2.1	2.5	2.6	.7	1.5	1.2	.9	.6	1.1
All Mining	4.0	6.6	6.8	1.9	3.8	3.2	5.2	11.5	5.7	2.0	2.1	2.6	.9	6.5	1.6
Metal Mining	5.3	7.5	8.6	2.1	3.5	3.5	5.2	6.3	4.4	2.4	2.2	2.6	.1	.5	*

* Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for March

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 67	Feb. 67	Mar. 66	Feb. 67 to Mar. 67	Mar. 66 to Mar. 67
Civilian Work Force	252.3	248.9	254.2	3.4	—1.9
Total Employment	237.0	233.4	237.7	3.6	—0.7
Total Non-Agricultural Employment	205.8	205.9	203.5	—0.1	2.3
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	178.1	178.2	174.2	—0.1	3.9
Total Agricultural Employment	31.2	27.5	34.2	3.7	—3.0
Labor Management Disputes	*	*	.1	0.0	—0.1
Total Unemployment	15.3	15.5	16.4	—0.2	—1.1
Percent Unemployment	6.1	6.2	6.5	—	—
U. S. Unemployment Rate	—	4.2	4.0	—	—

* Less than 50

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg — An improving spring employment picture brings good job increases in metal and lumber manufacturing industries. Shortages of experienced workers existed in both. Outdoor construction increased with milder weather. Mining operations in the Philipsburg area temporarily curtailed until exploration work completed.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup — Construction took a big step forward during the month. Work is now progressing on \$6 million in new commercial and industrial building projects. New starts in home building still on the slow side. Construction of Yellowstone Dam Visitors' Center employs 15 men. Hiring up in all industries over last year with exception of finance, insurance and real estate firms. There was brisk demand for farm and ranch workers with worker shortages expected later.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident — Most industries geared for good hiring trends during the summer months. Good schedule of new construction including \$540,000 addition to telephone company building, college housing, and interstate highway work. Home building down 50% from last year. Sawmills at peak operations with some on two shifts; logging has yet to recover from effects of spring break-up conditions. Farm labor demand continues upward.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall — Good seasonal trends evident in most industry groups. Shortages of workers for metal mining continues. Miners, student miners, machinists and boilermakers on the demand list. Construction, trade, and service industry payrolls edging upward. Farm labor demand shows good seasonal upturn.

CUT BANK — Outdoor work in construction, oil fields, and agriculture practically stood still during March because of adverse weather conditions. Future trends, however, point to a good spring and summer employment situation. Jobless pay claims show but slight decline from year ago.

DILLON — Agriculture was at the head of the hiring line with 82 workers placed during the month. Livestock care and feeding comprised main activities,

with shortages of workers for lambing and calving. Upcoming construction includes 5 new school buildings and 5½ miles of interstate highway. New supermarket should be ready for May 1 opening.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim — Outdoor work cut sharply by bad weather and road conditions. Main street business volume suffered by restricted travel conditions. Auto dealers, trade and service firms felt absence of substantial numbers of military personnel from air base facilities. Farm worker demand exceeded available supply of workers.

GLENDALE, Circle Wibaux — Hiring trends in most industries at low ebb with bad weather chiefly to blame. Construction of river bridge slowed as equipment could not be moved because of muddy roads and cement could not be poured. Limited hiring noted in oil field companies and food industry groups. Sheep shearing and livestock feeding main farm work.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford — Changing weather conditions had control of construction and other outdoor activity during the month. Payrolls were up one week and down the next. Demand for smelter workers continues on weekly basis. Labor turnover in most industries below last year. Farm field work delayed by weather but 119 workers placed in other farm activities.

HAMILTON, Stevensville — Employment cutbacks in logging accounted for much of the new unemployment during March. Most mills kept on fairly steady work schedules. Wet weather delayed farm field work and kept hiring at bare minimum. Trade and service at seasonal lows.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem — Good industrial employment prospects predicted as soon as weather clears. Commercial and educational building projects totaling \$1.3 million will employ about 100 men when in full force. Steady hiring trends noted in railroads. Hiring in trade, service, and agriculture will advance rapidly with start of summer season.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs — Disappointing economic trends have covered most industry groups the past two months. Labor demand has been slow in all industries including construction and trade firms. Some demand existed for clerical workers. Farm labor demand fairly good and rising steadily.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish — Sharp upswing in construction activity overshadowed temporary decline of 350 in logging employment because of spring break-up conditions. Columbia Falls aluminum plant expansion project employment near the 700 mark. New starts in home building and commercial structures adds to good construction agenda. Active hiring noted in lumber and plywood mills.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett — Industry hiring down from last month and last year. Slow trends on main street and reduced construction hiring because of weather conditions chiefly responsible. Farm labor demand now starting to show good advances.

LIBBY — Heavy surplus of workers in area attracted by Libby Dam and related projects. Construction trends slow because of poor weather. Big upswing in demand for lumber, construction, trade, and service workers expected next few months. No farm labor demand.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	179.3	184.2	194.0	196.4	196.2	191.9	189.8	185.5	185.9	185.4
1967	180.4	178.2	178.1*										

* Preliminary Estimate.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber — Present trends point to good employment activity in construction, trade, and service industries this summer. Some hiring now in progress for staffing facilities at Yellowstone Park. Reduced logging operations caused some mill layoffs.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry — Except for fairly good trends in trade hiring, activity in other groups at slow pace. Work continues on some building projects but two highway projects wait for better weather. Farm and ranch operations behind normal schedules.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior — Employment declines most evident in logging and service industries. Fairly good seasonal job trends hold in other groups. End of spring break-up period in logging, start of tourist season, and more construction activity promises good summer work season ahead.

POLSON — Logging operations still at low ebb but most mills continue on fairly active production schedules with some hiring. Work at potato cellars below par due to slow market. Main street hiring shows some improvement. Farm labor demand at low ebb.

SHELBY — Most labor demand during the month was in agriculture where sheep tagging and shearing operations were underway. Demand will now increase for calving, lambing, and field work. Normal seasonal trends in other industries with little hiring.

SIDNEY — Snow and cold weather held back hiring in many industries during the month. New unemployment up sharply from last month. Sugar beet refining operations completed for season with heavy worker layoffs. Construction projects totaling \$2½ million will be active this summer. Shortages of farm labor expected during summer months.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs — Little change expected in labor market conditions until May when weather improves. Seasonal recall of forest service workers and some recall of idled loggers should be in evidence early in May. Normal seasonal trends in trade and service with little new activity. Farm labor demand at standstill.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey — Grip of winter slowly easing on construction and other outdoor endeavors but still restricts labor demand. A few hires for building projects noted. Work starting on \$85,000 county library. Oil fields slow with average of 5 rigs in operation. Grain farm work 3 weeks behind last year.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Mar. 1967 (2)	Feb. 1967 (3)	Mar. 1966	Feb. '67 to Mar. '67	Mar. '66 Against Mar. '67
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	178,100	178,200	174,200	—100	3,900
Manufacturing	23,000	23,600	21,400	—600	1,600
Durable goods	15,400	15,400	13,900	00	1,500
Lumber and timber products	8,900	8,900	8,400	00	500
Primary metals	4,300	4,300	3,700	00	600
Other (4)	2,200	2,200	1,800	00	400
Nondurable goods	7,600	8,200	7,500	—600	100
Food and kindred products	3,800	4,400	3,800	—600	00
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,800	1,700	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Other (5)	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Mining	7,100	7,200	7,600	—100	—500
Metal mining	4,900	4,900	4,900	00	00
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	1,000	00	—100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,300	1,400	1,700	—100	—400
Contract Construction	7,000	7,200	8,000	—200	—1,000
Contractors, building construction	1,900	2,100	2,400	—200	—500
Contractors, other than building	2,400	2,400	2,000	00	400
Contractors, special trade	2,700	2,700	3,600	00	—900
Transportation and utilities	16,700	16,600	17,000	100	—300
Interstate railroads	7,100	7,000	7,200	100	—100
Transportation except railroads	3,700	3,700	3,900	00	—200
Utilities including communication	5,900	5,900	5,900	00	00
Trade	41,900	41,500	41,500	400	400
Wholesale trade	8,900	9,000	8,700	—100	200
Retail trade	33,000	32,500	32,800	500	200
General merchandise and apparel	6,000	6,000	5,900	00	100
Food stores	4,900	4,800	5,300	100	—400
Eating and drinking establishments	8,600	8,200	8,200	400	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,800	6,800	6,900	00	—100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,700	6,700	6,500	00	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,200	7,200	7,000	00	200
Services and miscellaneous	25,800	25,500	25,800	300	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,000	2,800	3,000	200	00
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Other (6)	20,600	20,500	20,600	100	00
Government	49,400	49,400	45,900	00	3,500
Federal	13,100	13,100	11,200	00	1,900
State and local	36,300	36,300	34,700	00	1,600
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,600	23,500	22,200	100	1,400
Manufacturing	3,900	3,900	3,400	00	500
Contract construction	2,100	2,100	1,800	00	300
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	—100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,000	5,900	5,600	100	400
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,700	3,700	3,700	00	00
Government	4,600	4,600	4,300	00	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	25,400	25,600	24,300	—200	1,100
Manufacturing	2,800	3,100	2,700	—300	100
Contract construction	1,600	1,600	1,300	00	300
Transportation and Utilities	2,500	2,500	2,500	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,800	7,800	7,700	00	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	5,100	5,000	4,600	100	500
Government	4,200	4,200	4,100	00	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 798 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,194 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical

and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MARCH, 1967 AND MARCH, 1966

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Mar. 1967		Mar. 1966		Mar. 1967		Mar. 1966		Mar. 1967				Mar. 1966				Wk. End 3-31	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1967	1966
Anaconda	151	53	169	28	227	73	261	71	110	15	125	67	100	11	111	34	135	15
Billings	468	180	407	102	2,484	900	2,619	934	261	107	368	120	889	93	482	201	1,402	1,394
Bozeman	186	36	193	44	614	162	481	138	81	37	118	26	120	16	136	40	294	251
Butte	317	93	348	106	1,029	244	1,044	261	83	19	102	37	130	16	146	67	411	526
Cut Bank	40	10	45	6	414	149	691	177	11	101	112	25	18	88	106	26	284	257
Dillon	41	17	50	19	94	23	164	38	29	82	111	63	27	74	101	85	90	113
Glasgow	50	10	35	1	224	31	256	19	36	12	48	10	47	7	51	9	162	163
Glendive	52	15	46	7	196	52	275	48	12	42	54	11	17	34	51	7	142	133
Great Falls	496	137	608	161	2,239	752	1,858	468	220	119	389	103	288	167	455	106	1,235	810
Hamilton	48	13	41	7	265	80	290	91	25	5	30	11	30	12	42	8	199	207
Havre	31	6	68	5	288	62	257	62	33	72	105	20	44	100	144	23	207	169
Helena	185	37	225	73	678	178	402	115	72	20	92	40	93	52	146	60	490	824
Kalispell	267	80	245	46	1,012	337	1,886	729	150	17	167	45	117	26	143	36	782	1,038
Lewistown	44	13	61	18	198	59	251	116	23	62	85	15	40	78	118	26	156	197
Libby	106	16	...	...	596	169	...	...	26	...	26	2	...	...	...	...	514	395
Livingston	63	25	62	6	839	73	847	86	50	10	60	29	47	18	65	28	231	230
Miles City	46	9	68	16	163	48	339	104	36	13	49	6	44	33	77	25	180	164
Missoula	408	108	491	136	1,385	468	1,449	506	146	10	166	45	210	29	269	61	785	705
Polson	65	12	67	20	320	105	317	103	29	8	32	14	51	21	72	13	215	215
Shelby	46	12	45	5	198	85	224	59	23	103	126	8	33	100	133	21	155	156
Sidney	74	19	97	8	288	61	301	63	20	90	110	5	32	29	61	16	176	173
Thompson Falls	22	10	70	17	216	85	260	108	7	...	7	...	35	...	35	19	170	222
Wolf Point	36	11	25	4	177	66	337	84	14	5	19	6	24	10	34	6	188	207
Billings YOC	232	9	297	14	615	26	837	62	86	1	87	8	108	1	104	4	...	...
TOTALS	3,477	931	3,753	849	13,969	4,278	14,984	4,441	1,583	946	2,628	696	2,069	1,014	3,083	851	8,543	8,220

*Includes 642 claims of the Fed. UC Program 721 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES
 (Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
 (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. (1) 1967	Feb. (2) 1967	Mar. 1966	Mar. (1) 1967	Feb. (2) 1967	Mar. 1966	Mar. (1) 1967	Feb. (2) 1967	Mar. 1966
All Manufacturing	119.59	117.39	121.55	39.6	39.0	42.8	3.02	3.01	2.84
Durable Goods	118.40	118.70	123.20	40.0	40.1	44.8	2.96	2.96	2.75
Primary Metal	117.71	118.10	116.93	39.9	39.9	40.6	2.95	2.96	2.88
Nondurable Goods	121.03	113.20	118.20	38.3	36.4	38.5	3.16	3.11	3.07
Food and Kindred Products	109.76	99.64	101.23	39.2	36.1	38.2	2.80	2.76	2.65
All Mining	134.96	135.62	120.89	41.4	41.6	38.5	3.26	3.26	3.14
Metal Mining	131.13	131.13	116.87	40.1	40.1	37.7	3.27	3.27	3.10
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	118.27	119.69	115.25	38.4	39.5	39.2	3.08	3.03	2.94

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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